



Christmas tree time again Darrell and Janice Odum and Jennifer Little girls want the biggest, prettiest tree, and Jennifer took one backward look, just to make sure. See News Briefs.

THE Inyo County News-Letter

A News Alternative • Eastern Sierra News Service

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INDEPENDENCE CAL. 93526

Nov. 29, 1978

Your county library
What's behind the books P.8

Hot Ditch cleanup
Skinnydipping Dee-jay P.4

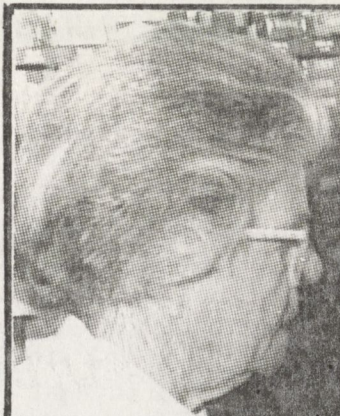
FORUM
Better late and better? P.12

The COUNTY

News Briefs

SOOTHING STROKES FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION; NONE OF SAME FROM THE BLM; A CETA "ROOTS" STUDY OF INYO; AND NO PAY HIKES FOR BISHOP NURSES

MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, WHO lately have been feeling more than a little put off by what they consider too many reversals of their decisions by the (See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 2)



Sally Phillips
said no to
the armed
robber.

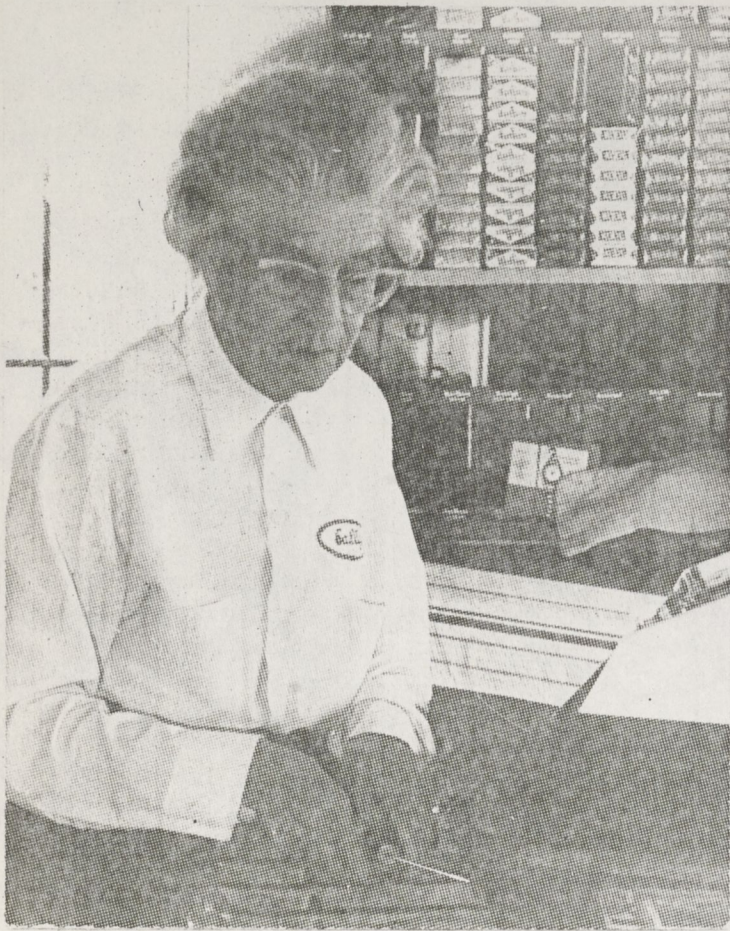
See P.2

Photo: Les Hall

Fiery Death On 395

One of three men burned to death in a crash near Bishop lies beside the van that killed him and two others. See Pages 14-15 for story and more pictures.





Calling his bluff

72-YEAR-OLD SALLY PHILLIPS OF BISHOP
FACES UP TO AN ARMED ROBBER; \$5000
WAS AT STAKE, BUT HE FIRED AND FLED

THINKING PERHAPS THAT HE MIGHT BE LEAVING behind the nagging list of problems that of late had been bothering him in Orange County (fire bombings, attempted murder of a police officer, car theft, etc.) a young (20) man drove into Bishop Sunday morning to begin a new career. It was short-lived.

In the stolen car he was driving, he pulled into the Fargo Service Station on West Line Street, his first stop. Mustering all of the TV-movie gangster know-how that he could, he put a road map over the gun he carried and approached 72-year-old Sally Phillips who with her husband operates the station. "I thought

(See BLUFF on Page 16)

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

board of supervisors, last week got the official word: That's the way it's supposed to work, so don't worry about it.

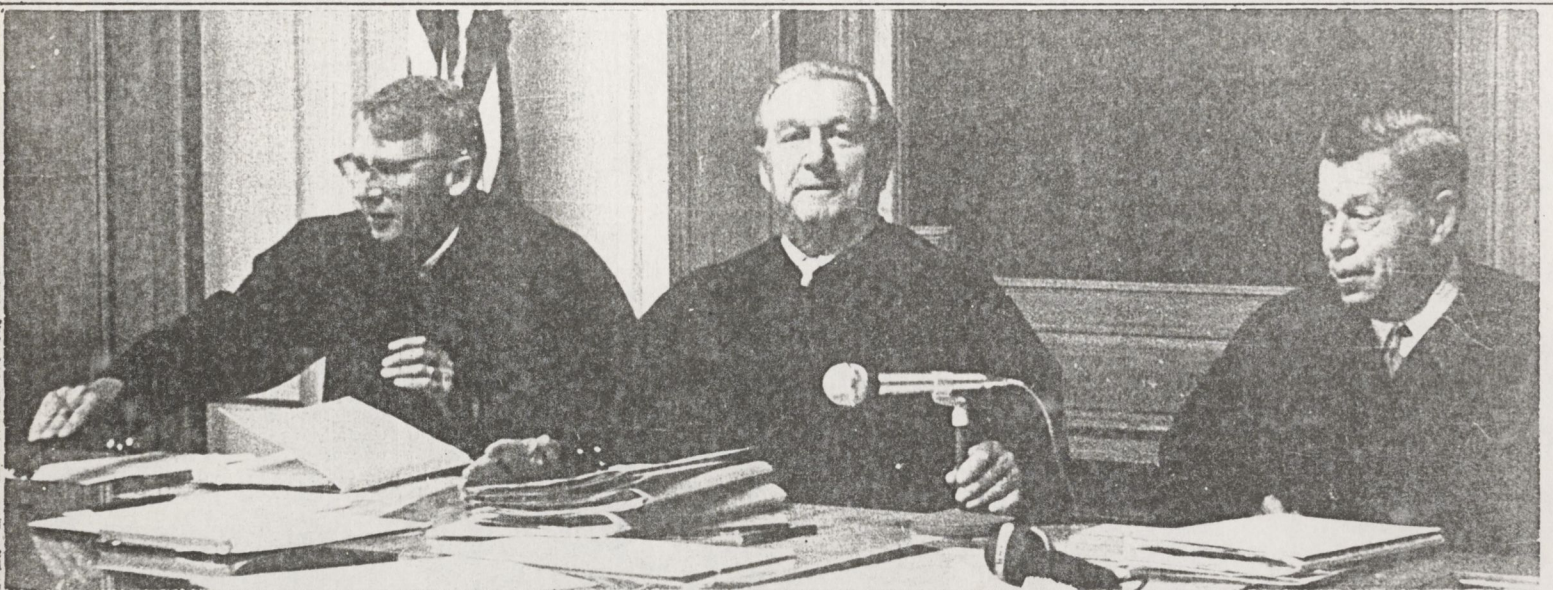
Couching his words in conciliatory if not fatherly terms, the county administrator explained the point to a reporter following what was called a "workshop" meeting of members of the two bodies. "That" said Smith, "is the process of government. The planning commission looks at things from a technical, objective view...(but) there are human aspects to these projects. Let's face it: It's the way the system is set up. The politically-oriented body relates to the human elements."

Whether the planning commission members were buying it - Only a few months ago they called in the grand jury which later found that the supervisors were probably guilty of conflict of interest if not criminal action on at least one "project" - nobody was saying. But Smith says he believes the meeting brought about a "better understanding" between planning commissioners and the board.

Out of "two or three hundred" projects, the board has reversed but a dozen or so, said Smith. The most controversial of those was of course the Dean Knight mobile home project at Big Pine, an issue which now lies dormant if not dead. In that case, the commission had demanded from Knight an environmental impact report, but the board said no. And - shades of Dean Knight - the board only recently said no on another EIR case, this one for a mining operation near the community of Durmovin.

EVIN LAPPAS, THE 26-YEAR-OLD WOMAN ACCUSED IN the shooting death of her step-father, Al Durney, will go to trial in the first week of February - the decision of the superior court last week. She has entered two pleas in the case, not guilty, and not guilty by reason of insanity. It came to light, meanwhile, that one of the two psychiatrists in her case died while testifying in another case at Fresno, and so another doctor, also from out of the county, has been assigned to the case. She remains in jail, her bail of \$100,000 not reduced, despite efforts of her attorneys.

(More NEWS BRIEFS, P. 3)



Last year a high court ruled that one judge was no longer enough to sit on appeals cases, and so three counties have pooled their judicial resources. For Inyo County it was a legal "first" with Judges (from left) Hillary Cook of Alpine County, Verne Summers of Inyo, and Harry Roberts of Mono, attending to the county's appeals cases. To mark the event the three judges posed for a sheriff's photographer, Lt. "Buddy" Capello.

A CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE, YES, BUT A LICENSE TO get out of jail, no. That, in effect, was the verdict for Bishop's Steven Michael Perry as handed down by Judge Verne Summers. The judge had granted him permission to try to pass the contractor's license board examination, and he did. But Perry is serving time in the county jail on charges of drug possession; when it came time to request a shorter jail sentence - so he might be free to use the license - Judge Summers drew the judicial line: Perry will serve out his sentence.

Perhaps more fortunate was another inmate, Fred Thompson who was jailed many months ago after ramming his truck into another vehicle. Sentenced to serve 360 days, he will be released 60 days short of that time with the restriction that he join for 180 days an alcohol abuse program. He had been charged with assault, drunk driving, and hit and run.

BACK IN THE 50's, THE UTILITY COMPANIES WERE handing out plaques and emblems for homes and businesses that went "all-electric" or "all-gas" - a kind of reward for buying their fuel. Some special rates went with those seeming awards, but now the owners living behind the emblems are upset about soaring rates; their "medallion" homes are no longer as economical as the utility company ads had affirmed for so long. And now their howls may reverberate clear up to Owens Valley. At a meeting of the water and power commissioners, a proposal came up - one that would lower the rates for "all-electric" customers with the loss being tacked on the bills of the others; an increase of about 3%. It was the idea of another of DWP's special committees that offered no recommendation to accompany the plan when it is brought up before the Los Angeles City Council. It is not yet certain as to whether the plan, if adopted, will affect all of DWP's long-suffering customers, or those in the valley, but locally there arose a demand - not a new one by any means - that DWP be brought under control of the Public Utili-

ties Commission.

AT LEAST FOR NOW, THE PROBLEMS AT NORTHERN IN-yo Hospital that recently threatened to bring about a unionization of nurses, have been resolved. That's the word from Hospital Administrator Herman Spencer who said he "hadn't taken the problem lightly." He calls it a problem of "overworked and underpaid nurses." One of the causes of the recurring difficulties: a patient-load increase of nearly 50% (current daily census average 37 as compared with last year's figure of 25). "All of us have worked harder, and they're frustrated," said Spencer. And on top of all that, the hospital board recently decided against paying the nurses a cost-of-living increase because the hospital's usual slice of the tax pie (\$200,000) was trimmed back to a bare-bones \$90,000 due, or so it is claimed, to the passage of Proposition 13.

But some raises may be granted sometime after the first of the year, said Spencer.

As to those rumbles of unionizing the nurses, Spencer commented that "At a recent open meeting, there was no talk of unions. But some would like pay rates to go up, and the board has advised the administration to work on a payroll package. I'll submit that around the first of the year. It will include an upward pay adjustment, but I don't know how much."

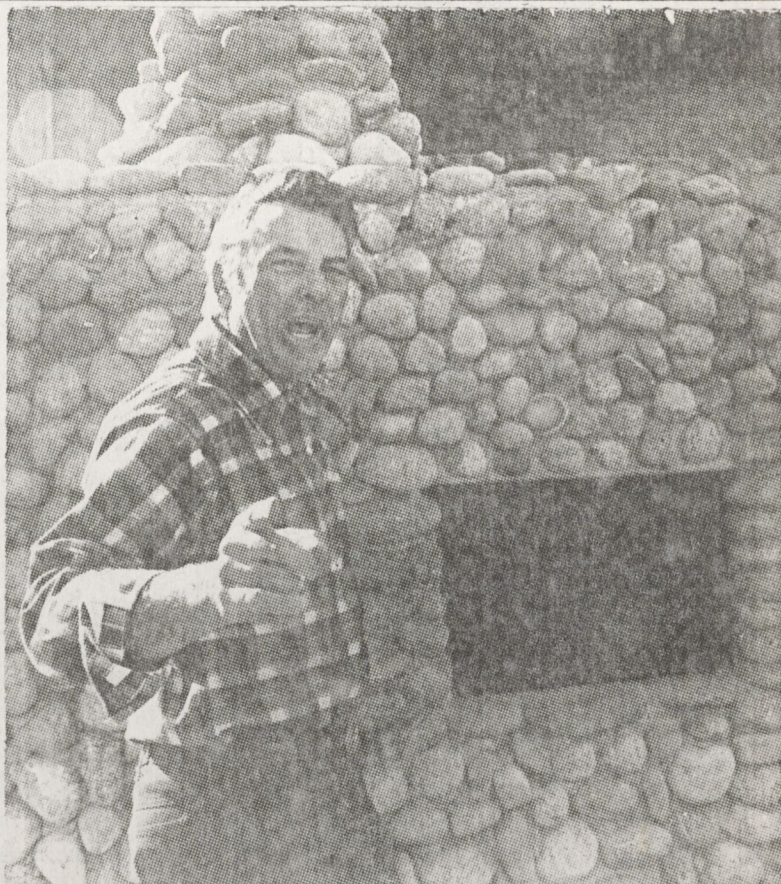
IN OTHER HOSPITAL HASSLES THINGS LOOKED LESS rosey. A Bishop doctor, Dr. David Sheldon, has apparently been given what amounts to a reprimand from a special committee of other doctors. Word of a "letter" leaked out last week, and it was confirmed by the administrator who after talking to Sheldon suggested that he was angry and that reporters might do well to have plenty of "malpractice insurance." The issue was not a major one, however, as best it can be determined: It has to do with the loss or destruction of some hospital forms and the long-standing issue of nurses' authority in decision-making. Not a
(More NEWS BRIEFS on Page 17)

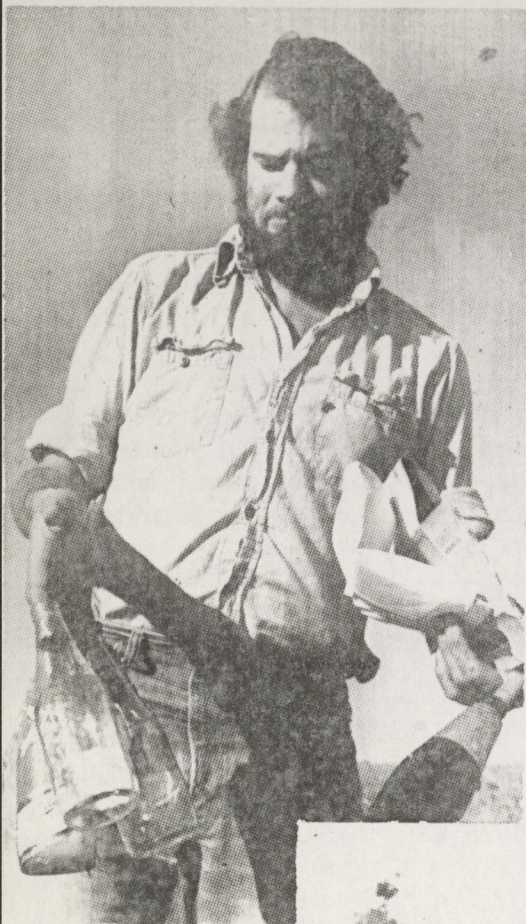
"TEXAS" BARBECUE

GUNSMOKE - HICKORY SMOKE

He's a former actor and resident of Hollywood - not, as one might suppose, of Texas - but he knows how to make "Texas" barbecue. Since 1965, Curtis Herring has owned a small ranch in the Alabama Hills and recently thought he'd put his talents, other than theatrical, to work. In a vacant building next to the old Lone Pine Hotel Herring has built a stone pit for his specialized brand of cookery to go into the barbecue business. The building has previously housed a saloon, a barber shop, shoe store and, in recent years, an amusement center that failed. But maybe "Texas" barbecue can bring 'em in; Herring thinks so. Optimistic about his wares, he's now eyeing a lot next door for expansion. He calls his place the "Smoke Signal." He formerly worked in such shows as "Gunsmoke" and "Naked City," but has changed his costumes for an apron for good.

Photo: Benett Kessler





The big (?) cleanup at 'Hot-ditch'

SKINNYDIPPING AT 'HOT DITCH' BELOW KEOUGH'S IS A LITTLE LESS HAZARDOUS, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF JON LEVIN, A BISHOP DISC JOCKEY.



Though puritans shudder and the shy turn red at the idea, "skinnydipping" - bathing in the raw - is a fact of 1970's life in Inyo County. Sometimes it can be hazardous, thanks to the thoughtless who leave broken glass, cans, throwaway diapers and other debris around the county's warm pools and streams. Jon Levin, a Bishop radio disc jockey, is a supporter of the skinnydipping life style. Angered by the mess he found at his favorite spot near Keough's, he went on the air to find volunteers to clean up the place. "About a hundred" called in to say they'd help; 20 showed up.

The daylong effort netted several truckloads of debris that Levin and his fans, like Barbara Kelly, below, hauled to a nearby dump. When it was over, Levin was tired, grimey. To see how he rewarded himself after the day's dirty work, see the picture at lower right on Page 12.



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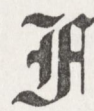
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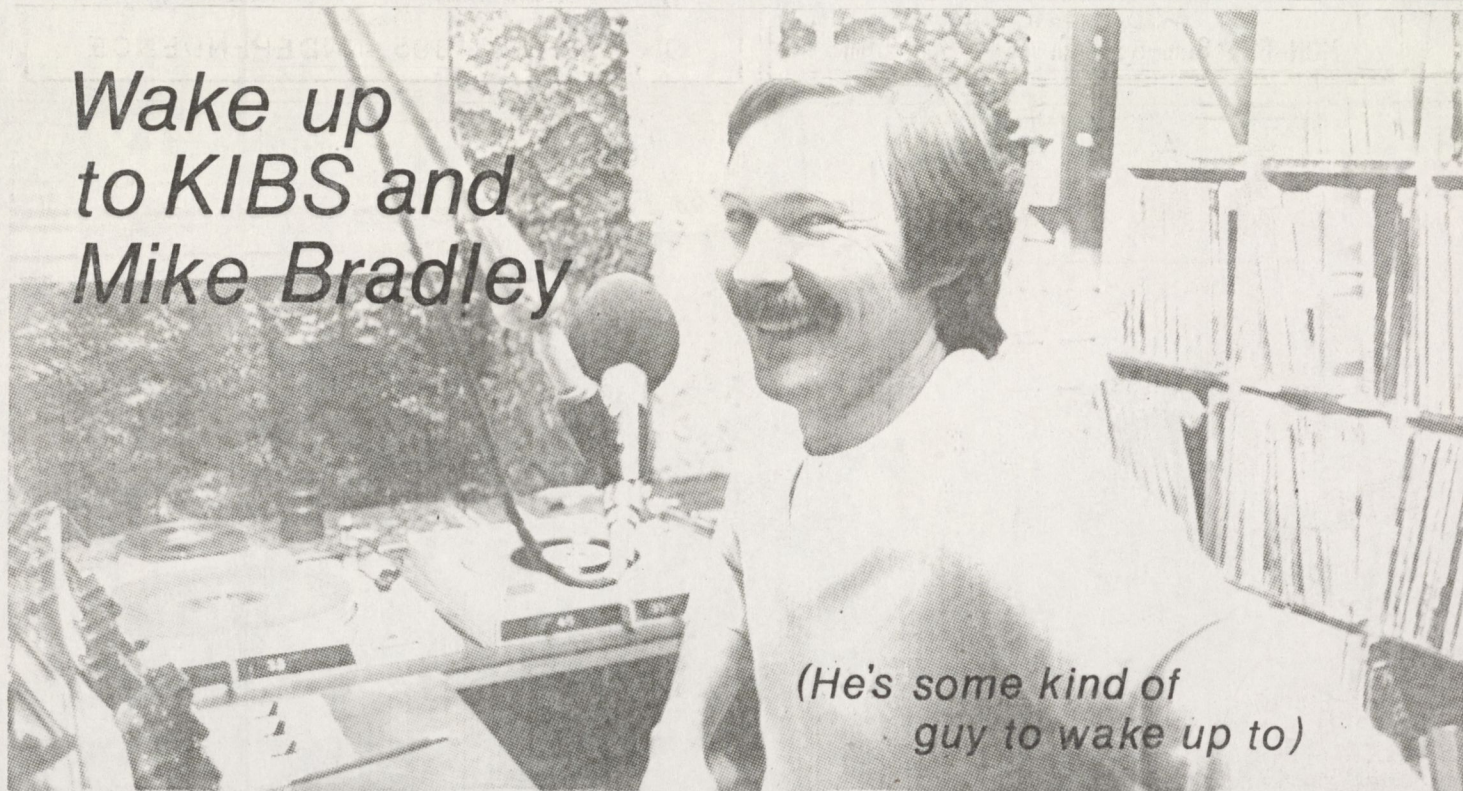
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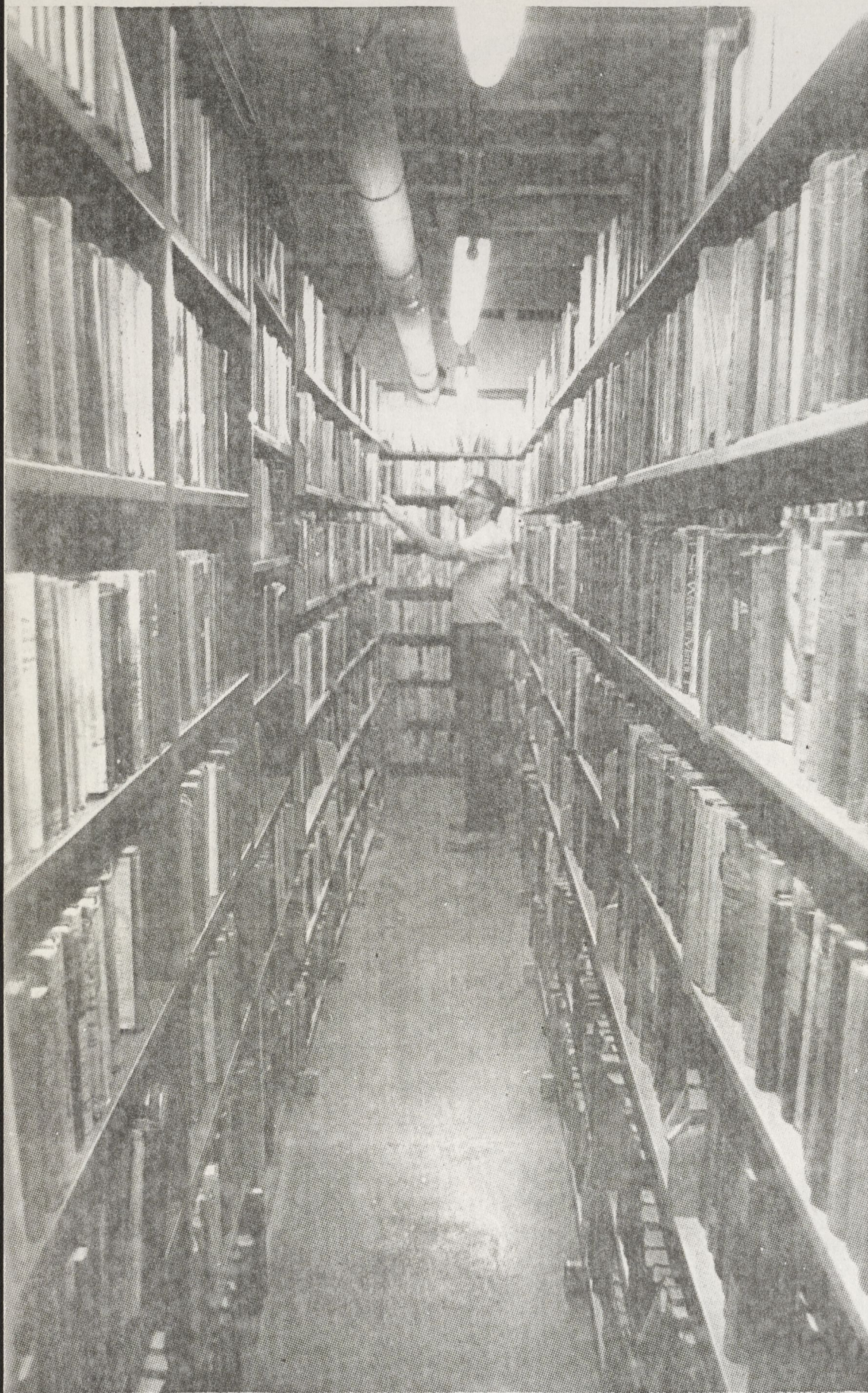
(He's some kind of
guy to wake up to)

First off, there's the news at 6. Then weather and sports. So you'll know what's going on. Then music for a cheerful wake-up (That first cup goes down even better to a good beat.) Community announcements...the goings-on in Bishop. More music and news...and what's the weather again? Mike's got it all - all for you from 6 to 8, Monday thru Friday, and Saturdays, 6 to 11. And who is this guy? ...one of KIBS' top dee-jays, and also one of our account execs. Graduate, radio and television, Cal State Fullerton. Married to Margo and they have two kids, Joshua, 5, and Lauryn, 2. He's a friendly, interesting guy. (He's some kind of guy to wake up to.)

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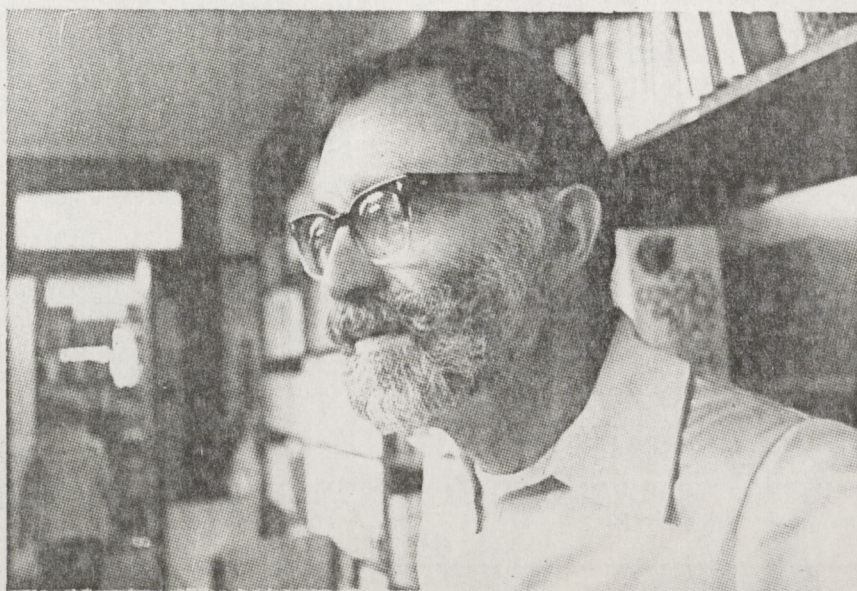


The county's 70,000 volumes

(And how
you get 'em)



With its \$165,000 budget (considered by Librarian Jay Ector a "healthy" one), and with its staff of 20 (full-time equivalent of 12, considering part-time workers), the Inyo library system this year will serve about 14,000 people, or 75-80% of the county's population. Except for the loss of its summer "bookmobile" program which provided service to Inyo's remote areas, the library has been remarkably untouched so far by the passage of Proposition 13. The library and its branches function with an efficiency and lack of controversy unknown in other county departments.

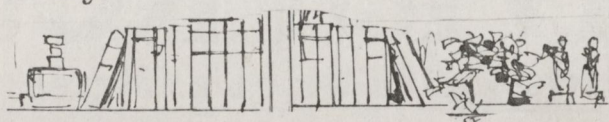
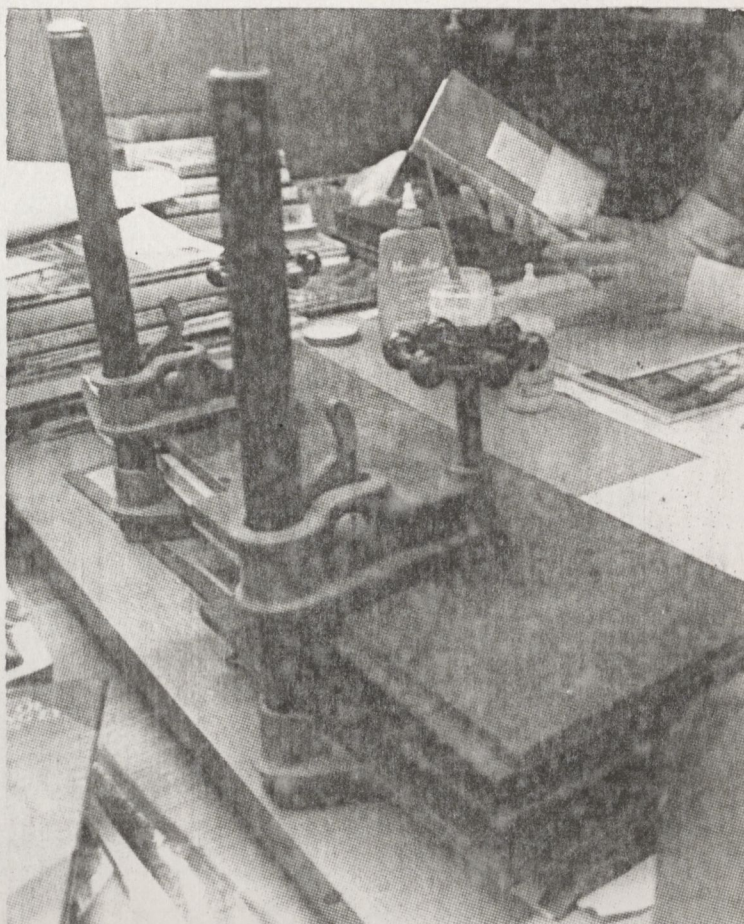


A teletype machine links Inyo with other libraries in the state; patrons get rapid service when requesting books or material not included in Inyo's relatively small stock. It may be replaced by a "Telecopier" that serves the same purpose, but costs less. It, too, will be operated by Sue Franz, shown here. Most needed: More "reference" works and hand-books, and "technical works," all of which are expensive.



Incoming books and materials (The county buys "from three to 400" each month at an annual cost (1978) of about \$37,000) must be processed: They are catalogued, usually by Peggy Irwin who is shown here; card pockets are pasted in, and special plastic jackets which add years to a book's life are fitted. Cards must be typed and emplaced.

Through much use (The county rarely has more than one copy of any book), books become damaged and worn, although most local patrons are said to be "pretty careful" with books. When they are damaged, they must be rebound and repaired. When the repair is complete, the books are put in presses (shown here) until glue dries. Much of this work is performed by the county's "expert," Ann Crilly. All books in the county system are brought to Independence for repair. All the county's books are put on a "schedule" which assigns them to various branch outlets. There are waiting lists for popular items, but local patrons can get "almost anything" they want either here or through the library's co-operative system with other libraries - even the Library of Congress. Selections range from pop novels and magazines "to Gray's Anatomy."



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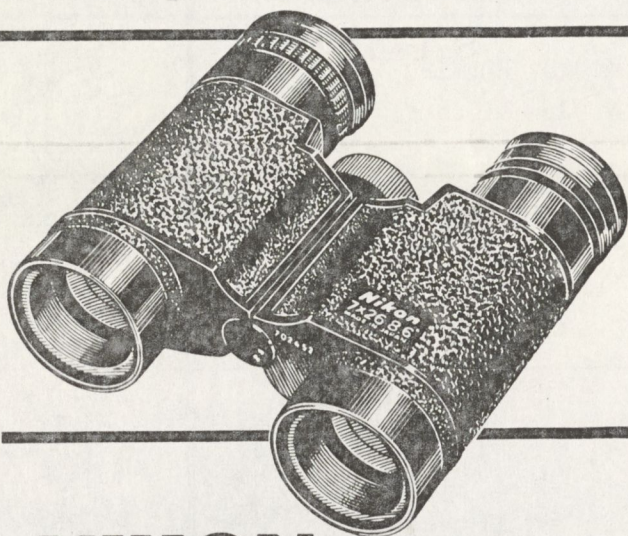


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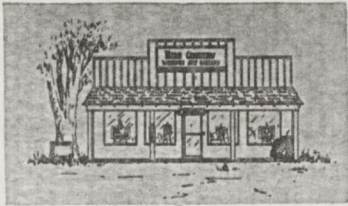
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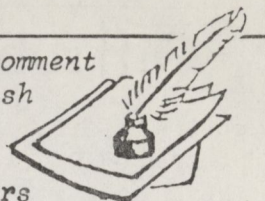
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FORUM your view

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ed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind News-Letter's readers that the publication of a letter on this page does not necessarily imply either the editors' agreement with its content or their guarantee of its accuracy.

MORE ON SOUTHERN INYO HOSPITAL AND NEWS-LETTER'S DERELICTION OF DUTY

H(eston) and K(essler):

Why do you always say "no comment" on Board meetings at Southern Inyo Hospital?

Those meetings are open to the public, aren't they? If they are, then why doesn't one of you be there? Then you can hear it all and ask questions, and no more "no comment."

Dr. Wilson's retirement has just happened this month, so this is just a new happening the past 3 weeks.

Wasn't everything going OK all ten months this year?

Your N-L of 2/13/78 said the hospital appears to be smoothly functioning and well on its way into the black.

Your summer's letter when Omie Mairs resigned as Chairman of the Board said the grand jury gave the hospital a clean bill of health. Everything going good.

So it looks like all these troubles have come up just since Mairs left 3 or 4 months ago, doesn't it? Big question: Why hasn't Ivey carried on like Mairs did at least until Wilson retired?

Good question? Yes or No?

You should have been at the last board meeting. Most of the time the door was open and even those not right inside could hear the discussions at times.

After all, it was supposed to be a meeting open to the public - right or wrong?

In case you have forgotten - just remember when the board cracked down on employees giving out any news-leaks. Your N-L told it. Remember.

Should we be stupid enough to give our names and then get fired for telling the truth? The evidence is there if you have the desire to find it.

(Name withheld on request)

(Editor's note: News-Letter finds itself in agreement with most points in the writer's letter. However, the editor would like to point out one or two significant facts: (1) In the best of all possible worlds, every editor would have at his disposal an unlimited number of talented writer-photographers and that would make possible the coverage of every event; he would also need unlimited space to publish their work; (2) News-Letter is not yet so knowledgeable - or egotistical - that it takes issue with the findings of the county's grand juries. But the writer is correct in pointing out that News-Letter should have covered the recent meeting, at least in light of the fact that the hospital is apparently in the middle of a(nother) crisis. The editor will meanwhile attempt to make up for his dereliction of duty this week - another meeting has been scheduled to look into the "coordination of emergency services.")

What!? Late again!?!?

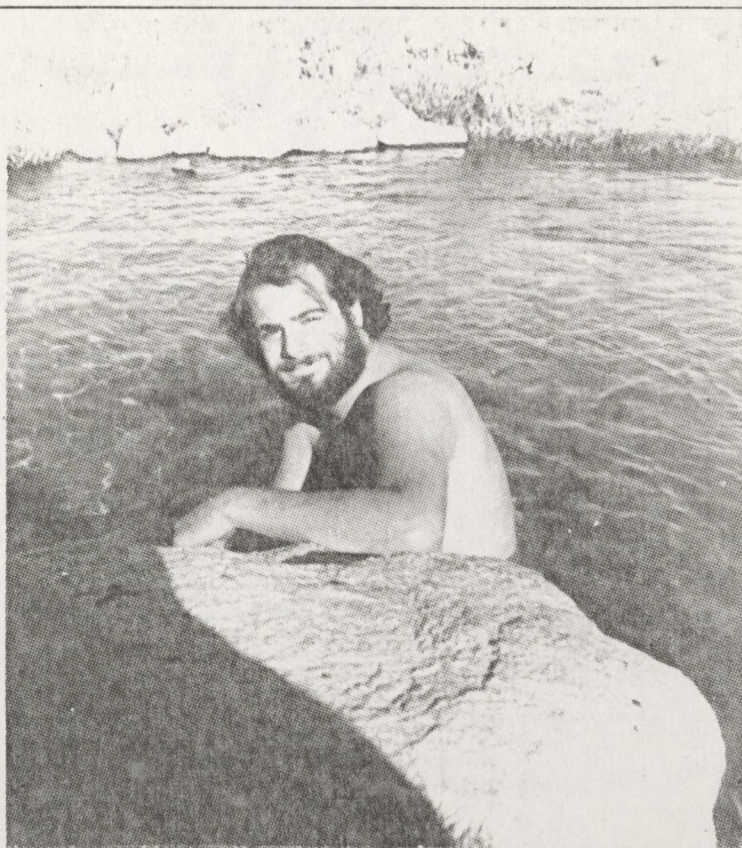
Yes, News-Letter's readers, already more than a little irritated by late deliveries, are having to suffer another wait for this week's edition. A combination of holidays, equipment breakdowns and some late-breaking stories has set the editors back by more than three days. However - and we're proud to point this out - it may have been worth the wait. News-Letter has attempted, once again, to extend its coverage; News-Letter photographers have been "all over" in recent days, and a quick turn through these pages will reveal for you what they have seen through the viewfinders of their cameras: From the quiet of the county library (Page 8), to the frantic activities of the county volunteer firemen, and even high in the air over the Bishop airport, they have turned their lenses and their talents to reporting what has been happening in Inyo in the past week. We hope that for you, the reader, it has in fact been worth waiting for. Thank you for your patience.

THANKS, FOLKS

To the Editors:

We would like to thank our children, relatives and friends who helped to make our 25th wedding anniversary a very memorable and special day. Love to all of you.

- Leroy and Gladys Coulter
Independence



Behind a rock, a warm, soothing reward Bishop's ecology-minded, skinnydipping deejay, Jon Levin, completes his clean-up effort and rewards himself with a dip in a newly-sanitized "hot creek" pool.

Notes From B.K.

TWO NOVELS IN THE MILL. The plot: life, times and troubles of a family. The setting: The Owens Valley. Author: Jane Fisher, Bishop's city councilwoman whose own family has been part of the Owens Valley history for years; one of those (who have earned their old-timer status) who lost a ranch under the DWP pressure at the turn of the century. Fisher's already at work on one of them, says she has enough material for two. Publication or release date: Unsure at this time.



BENETT KESSLER

"AND THEY SHALL DO EVIL IN MY NAME," SO SAID THE MAN OF GALILEE. And so it is. The '60's, like the '20's, spawned every imaginable kind of kook, klan, kult and kounterculture. And now, having survived the little Maharaj-ji (who left a lot of young Americans stranded in India), Charlie Manson (who left most everybody around him dead or in jail), we now have "The Peoples' Temple," or what's left of it. The body count so far: about 900 followers dead along with a United States Congressman and a number of courageous newsmen, one of whom, Bob Brown of NBC, told friends before he left that he probably would not be coming back. The real tragedy lies in the fact that the religious leaders and philosophers of the "real" world - those dedicated few who attempt to set people free instead of enslave them - saw it all coming 'way back in the days of the pseudo-religions of the '60's counterculture. They tried to stop it, but who listens? Who possesses "truth"?; no one, or at least no one I've found. Someone told me once that "common sense" does not always add up to "universal truth," but that "universal truth" does always add up to "common sense." We are all searching for...well, something. And so many people - the bigots, those who are so *certain* that theirs, and theirs alone, is "The Truth" - contribute in their own way to the problem. It is possible to be so *sincere*, yet so *mistaken*, but nobody seems able to know it - until time for the body count. As another sage said: "Better to be possessed by Truth."

BEST BET IF YOU'RE A "SEARCHER", OR A "SEEKER": Stay with those beliefs that have proven themselves over many, many years. Listen to those whose acts, not words, provide examples for intelligent living. Flee - fast! - from those who claim to have "the truth", and put your heart and energies with those who are looking for it, and, as best they can, living by it. Most important to avoid: those who tend to anger or to argue (always with a closed mind to your own "truth"), if by chance you don't agree in every detail. Not only are the latter dull and boring, they can also be dangerous. Avoid "communes," or "communal living"; they tend to create sheep, not leaders or individuals. Always - always! - distrust rich pastors and prophets.

A FEW CALLS AND NOTES ACROSS OUR DESK ABOUT THE OLD DWP BUILDING at Independence. A lot of local people disagree with DWP's view (and it's phoney justification for tearing down the building) that the structure is not "earthquake-proof." Our own sources - some of whom have actually worked on or in the building, say it is in fact one of the sturdiest in the valley; strong ties and stronger foundation. Why doesn't DWP try a little sugar to catch its flies? The county government is short of space and could use the room.

STAGGERING PIOUSLY DOWN FROM MY PULPIT NOW, I'll move on to other snow-jobs. Anyone out there remember Heikki Lunta - and the Weather Map Lady on the old KINC news show. Heikki was that wild and crazy Scandinavian whose crude but funny "Snow Dance Song" somehow conjured up snow and created instant blizzards in several states. The Weather Map Lady played it a couple of times and - sure enough - a few clouds appeared even at the height of the drought. Bob Allen of Bishop was asking about Heikki the other day; we're sending him a 45-rpm copy of Heikki's song. If the precip gets too heavy, the reverse side is "Heikki Lunta Go Away" and is there to make it stop snowing.

HARD TO BELIEVE BUT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR SAID IT: The county can't buy standard shift automobiles because the female employees *won't drive them!* Aw, come on now, ladies, it's even kind of fun. And standard transmissions are easier to repair, cheaper to operate, and cost us less gas. But, then, I must admit that at 16 I found a John Deere tractor kind of intimidating.

ART SHOW CALLED THE "ART EXHIBITION TWO" FEATURES PAINTINGS BY GLEN KNOWLES. Through December 16 at the new Walker Art Gallery at Bishop. Something to do on a Saturday: tour the galleries and art shops of Inyo; you'll find very good work. Gift ideas, too.

ADD TO THE GROWING VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE LIST (Independence Dept.): The Harry Holgates, by popular demand. Susan and Harry are people with varied interests and talents; live wires everywhere they go. First time I ever met him I asked who he was. Friendly snap-back: "Ask around."

THE LAUREN ELDER TV FLICK was aired on NBC about the time this issue was going out. Maybe now we've heard the last of that plane crash in the Sierra and the story of Elder, *I Alone Survived*. They filmed here of course, amid some local controversy. I'd rate the flick so-so.

AND MAY YOU SURVIVE THE COMING HOLIDAYS....AND MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAYS BE GOOD NEWS...every day.

- Sincerely,

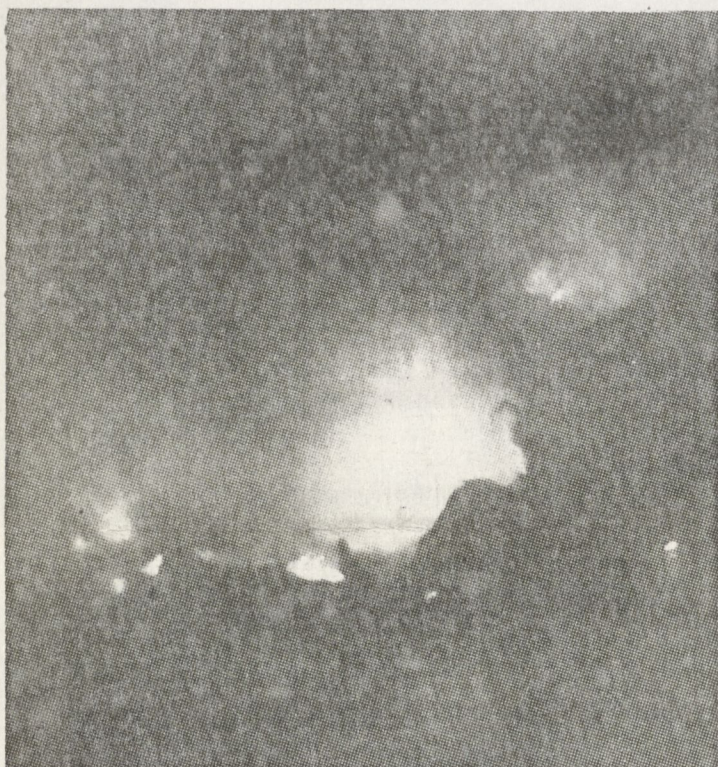
BK

FIRES

Photos:
Les Hall
John Heston

Spectacular and terrifying, they kept Inyo's volunteers busy

Just south of Bishop, a van went out of control and smashed into a big, double semi-trailer. Instantly, the wreckage, soaked with fuel, exploded into flames. Within minutes - before the cleanup or even the removal of bodies - News-Letter Photographer Les Hall took this silhouette photo of the grim scene.



A late-afternoon sun filters through smoke and Careless woodcutters, said to have been "illeg abandoned the spot when the flames got out of



Firemen and rescue workers picked through the wreckage and recovered the bodies of three men, two of them the occupants of the van, the other the driver of the truck. The body of one victim is shown on Page 1, laying near the van. Bishop's firemen, aided by highway patrolmen, closed down a strip of Highway 395 for several hours, as they picked through the wreckage: They found, among other things, consumer goods (including highly inflammable hair spray) bound for a K-Mart store in the semi trailer - and beer cans, "a lot of them," in the van. No fewer than 10 fire units arrived at the scene and poured nearly 14,000 gallons of water into the black, twisted metal and on the highway covered with highly volatile gasoline and truck fuel.



burning trees and silhouettes firemen fighting a fire in a grove of cottonwood. ally" cutting wood on the old Manzanar property, apparently started this fire, then hastily control. Firemen had to climb the trees (right) to get at deep-burning flames.

Carelessness, vandalism, arson and accident: At Bishop alone, the volunteers (53 of them) have "rolled" on more than a 100 fire calls this year, including "assist" calls from other agencies (BLM, Forest Service, etc.). Many fires - most of them, in fact, could have been prevented by caution. At this time, no one knows what Inyo's total 1978 fire bill amounts to either in terms of property and money, or in terms of lives and injuries, but the cost is high. Most alarms are "nuisance" calls - like the chimney blaze at Independence at right - but arson is on the increase here and elsewhere. Some businessmen and property owners have discovered they can make a fast buck - if a business is in financial difficulty - by burning it down to let the insurance company pay.



Some fires are not without a certain grim humor. To see what vandals at Lone Pine think is funny, see the bottom of the next page.



To prevent "chimney fires," homeowners should clean out chimneys in the fall - and avoid using "too many logs for a roaring fire." Accumulated soot caused the fire at Independence.

BLUFF, Continued

he was going to ask me where a street was," she recalled later, "but he moved the map and there was a gun. 'I want the money,' is what he said.

"Well, I got mad and I told him 'I will not give you the money.'"

"I mean business," he told her. But he was hardly more than a kid and, besides, Sally Phillips "felt safe" behind her glass enclosure.

"I will not give you the money," she told him firmly. Frustrated at this turn of events (Robbery victims aren't supposed to act like that!) he fired a shot; it went smacking into a calculator inside the attendant's booth.

"Do you believe me now?," he demanded, but Ms. Phillips held her ground. About that time, a customer drove in and the boy ("He was a clean-cut, nice-looking fellow," said his intended victim) fled, but not without the ego-saving warning "I'll be back!"

Ms. Phillips later admitted she was frightened, but "I couldn't see handing over five thousand dollars to someone who just thought it belonged to him."

For the next five hours, officers of all of Inyo's agencies feverishly searched the town and the area around it. The boy was not to be found - He was busy making



Bishop's robber-kidnap suspect is brought into headquarters
The police found that he was wanted for some "heavy" counts

Les Hall

still more problems for himself.

As the story unfolded - and there were a few contradictory reports - it went something like this: He drove out East Line Street and tried another holdup - an elderly man who told him, convincingly it seems, that he had no money. His second failure for the day. He then found Calvin Elliott who was in the area with his eight-year-old daughter Cynthia, and thus began still another chapter in the now-frantic saga of the amateur desperado. Elliott was loading sand in a pickup parked near the Owens River.

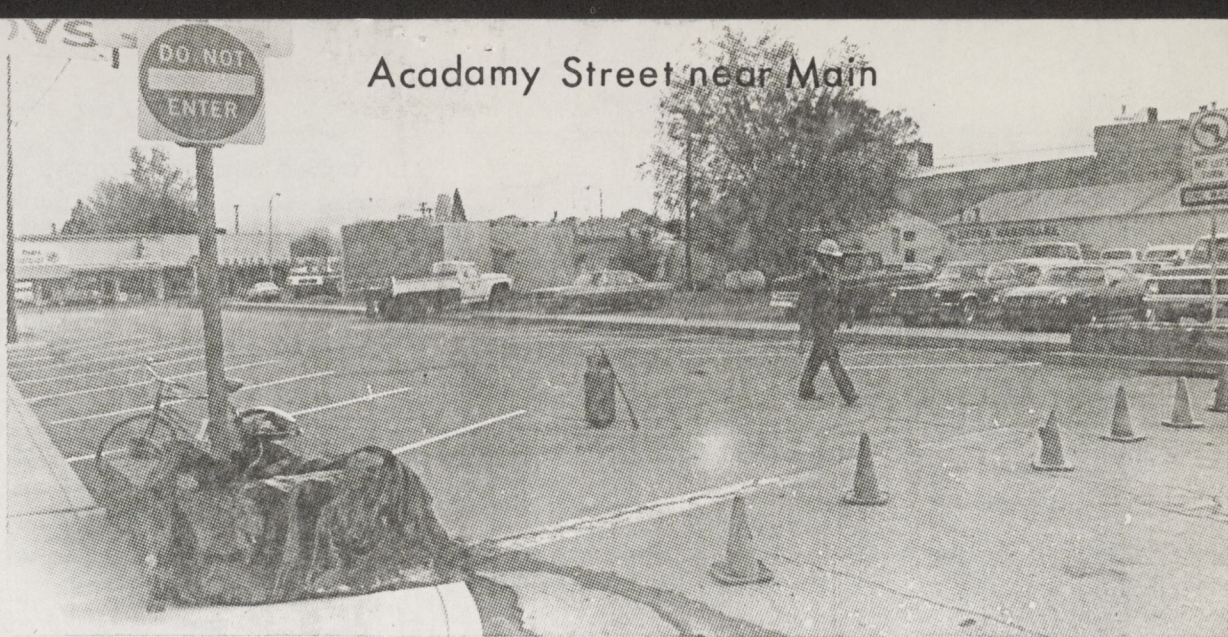
So...he held up Elliott, but Elliott had no money either. The score now stood at Desperados 0, Bishop Citizens 3. And so Elliott allowed as how he would be helpful. With a gun aimed at him, he agreed to take the boy to a friend's house where he might get some money.



Photo: Benett Kessler

With horseplay and grim humor, a visitor to the county responds to vandals at Lone Pine
This row of toilet seats is all that's left of a facility owned by the county parks and recreation department at the Locust Grove Campground near Lone Pine. The same vandals are thought to have destroyed some equipment nearby owned by the Department of Water and Power. The cost of replacing the campground toilet will amount to about \$4000. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Angelo said the incident is the "first" major vandalism to occur at county campgrounds; the campground is now closed with no plan to reopen it in the near future.

A work crew puts the finishing touches on Bishop's new one-way street. By changing the parallel parking to a "head-in" system, the city acquires several more parking spaces for its downtown area.



Apparently, that was a stall. But the boy went along with it. It was beginning to look like he didn't really want to shoot anyone in spite of his past record. Or maybe because of it.

Unbelievably, the story took a new twist; since he had proven to be conspicuously inept at holdups, he agreed to sell the pistol, a .22 calibre revolver. He left the little girl at the friend's house and drove Elliott to City Park where he dropped him off unharmed.

Now for a hideout. He went to the Ponderosa motor hotel and checked into a room. Meanwhile the search had continued: rescue crews joined with the police, the deputies and the highway patrol. They searched the river area (By now, the boy gunman was leaving a trail), and the business houses in town. They had by now a good description. The sheriff's airplane flew overhead.

Finally, they found him: John Limon, most recently a resident of Orange County, where he was wanted on several counts. He surrendered without a fight at the Ponderosa. He was arraigned at Bishop on Tuesday.

Even the officers still couldn't believe it.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

new question in 1970's medicine. Spencer said he thinks the doctor "feels that nurses are making medical decisions. This is a problem nationwide. The role of the nurse is expanding; they are more active, but some doctors feel that nurses should do what they, the doctors, say, instead of using independent medical judgement.

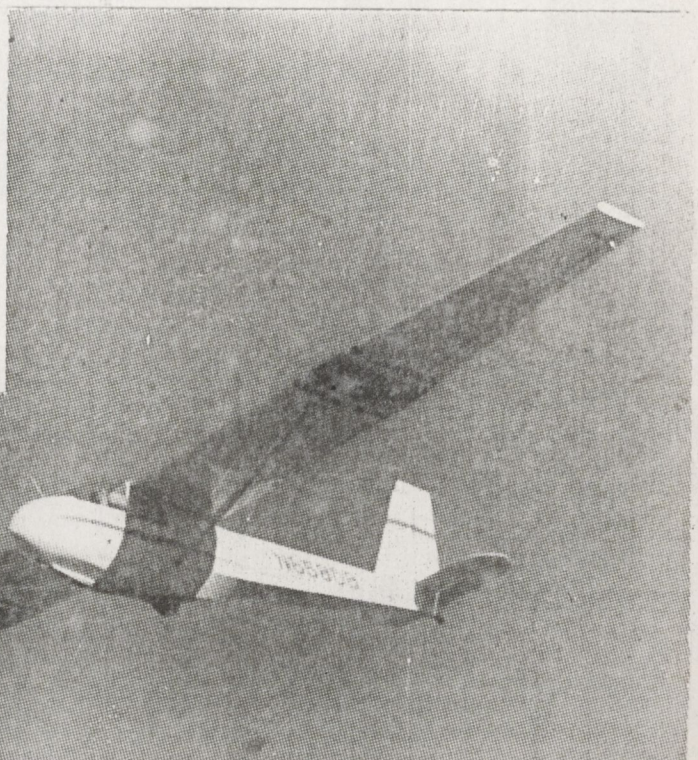
As for the letter to Sheldon, Spencer said the doctor received a letter from the medical staff "records utilization committee" dealing with "his behavior," and asking him to "cease and desist from reported behavior." What did Sheldon have to say in answer to the charges? Not much; he hung up on a reporter who called to get "his side," and angrily took up the matter with hospital personnel.

AN APPEARANCE BY A BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT official before the board of supervisors this week did little to ease the growing tensions and concerns of the board about BLM's proposed "wilderness" study. The county officials wanted to know - and BLM was having a hard

(More NEWS BRIEFS on Page 18)



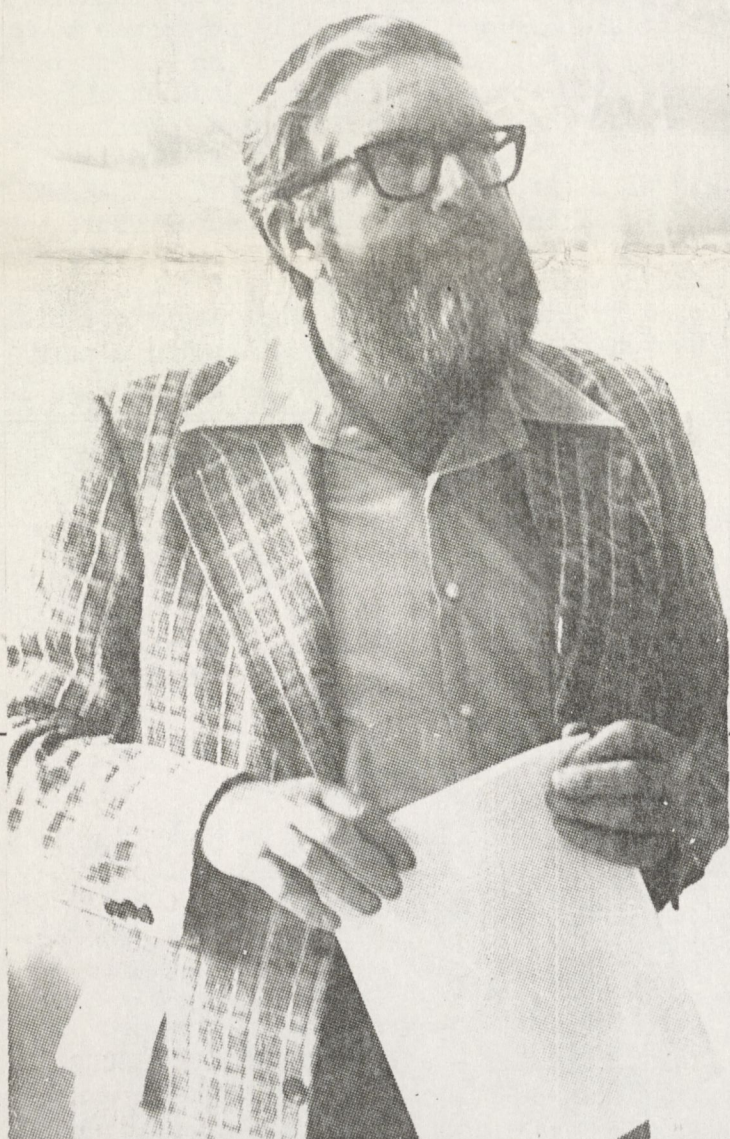
A score of gliders soared over Bishop in the 7th annual sail plane fly-in. Pilots like Bishop's air currents and smogless atmosphere, says Ross Briegleb of Mojave, an instructor at two soaring schools. He says some people are addicted to soaring - "a reasonable way to make a living outdoors."



Takeoff

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

time explaining - if any development or changes can be allowed to occur on land that the BLM finally brands as "wilderness." Most of BLM's answers were unclear or ambiguous to the board members. As for mining, yes, some of that can be done if the miner shows convincingly that he can restore the property so as to leave no scar on the landscape. And how about private land having no access roads? For now at least, the owners will get no rights-of-way until BLM's study is complete and the congress makes up its mind. The BLM representative, Lou Boll, was then asked if this land was to be "frozen" forever. He replied: "I don't know about 'forever,' but once it's in wilderness, it would be difficult to get it out." The supervisors agreed to meet again with Boll during the second week of January "to negotiate and express our concerns." Then Board chairman Richard McDonald, long used to dealing with bureaus, added caustically: "If they'll be recognized, that is." In that remark he echoed the feelings of many California desert dwellers: They doubt that their "public input" has any meaningful influence on BLM decisions that they suspect have already been finalized.



Phil Hennis before the planners
Inyo's officials "are counting trees..."

INYO'S SCENIC HIGHWAY - 395 - IS OF MUCH CONCERN these days to those charged with updating the county's general plan - but a special committee thinks more attention should be given to the concerns of property owners, less to Inyo's scenery. Phil Hennis last week gave his view of the "scenic" element of the plan: He

and other members of the committee would be happier if the county junks it. "He called the plan, as it now stands, "unnecessary and a duplication of already-existing laws," and he pointed out that the scenic element in the proposal will interfere with the development of private lands and, as a result, the development of the county itself.

Hennis said with barely restrained anger that "County officials are counting trees instead of looking at the whole picture; they're supposed to be reducing spending. And who knows how many dollars and man-hours will be wasted on this. Not to mention justifying doubling the size of the planning department with this kind of thing.

"It was mandated by the state," Hennis agreed, "but that was before Proposition 13. If the state wants it done, let them do it."

He made his plea before members of the planning board who offered no immediate reaction.

THE COUNTY'S BOY SCOUTS, MANY OF THEM FRESH IN from the forestlands of Mono County, opened up their annual Christmas Tree sales lots over the weekend. They cut their trees under the supervision of the Forest Service and will be in business each Saturday until Christmas - or as long as stocks last. Early buyers, hoping for choice trees, crowded at least one lot - at Independence. In previous years, some Boy Scout trees sold out in a day. (See Page 1)

SEARCHING OUT POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL parking to ease the increasingly crowded streets of Bishop, City Public Works Director Clyde Coons settled on a block of Academy St. between Main and Warren. (See Photo, P. 17) His choice netted the city 30 "head-in" spaces alongside a 30-space lot on a corner. Coons said it's all part of an ongoing program in his department - paid for out of local state transportation funds. The Academy project ran to \$21,500. Will making Academy a one-way street solve the problem? Not at all; Coons is still looking for space, "but I haven't found any yet." Meanwhile, at a city council meeting this week, a special five-person parking committee reviewed further no fewer than 18 recommendations to solve the Main Street parking problems. No solutions as yet.

SHE ISN'T EXACTLY TRYING TO FIND INYO COUNTY'S "roots," but CETA worker Judy Byron is on a genealogical hunt for the family trees of Inyo's original settlers. Her efforts are in part the fulfillment of a long-held hope of the Laws Museum people. Byron will operate under the advisory guidance of a county committee. For now, her work consists primarily of compiling names and addresses of local families and asking them to fill out "Record of a California Family" forms. With those she says she can begin the tracing work necessary to the project. She is also seeking out historical information - especially that which is so far unrecorded - and wants the county's history buffs to call her at 873-6721.

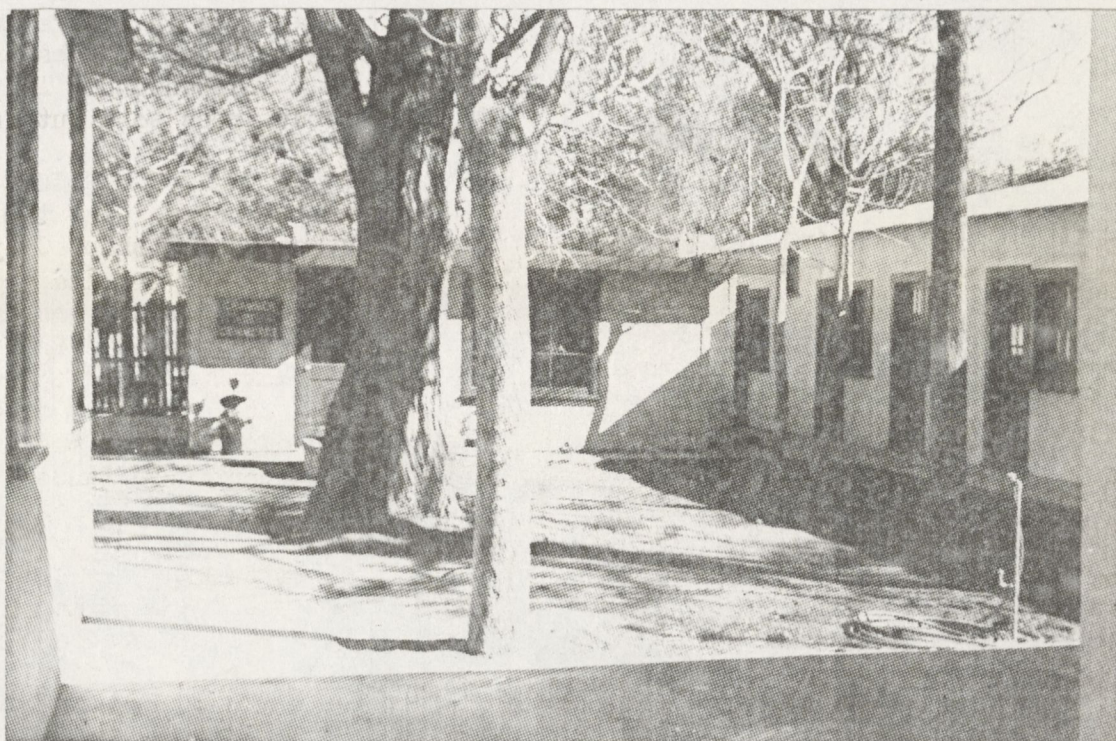
LAST WEEK, ONE OF THE COUNTY'S TV CABLE OPERATORS made good on a promise, and televiewers at Independence were watching (with only some small amount of TV "snow") an additional channel, 5 out of L.A. Primarily, it will amount

(More NEWS BRIEFS on P. 19)

New look for the old hotel



About two years ago when members of the Southern Inyo Artisans Guild heard that the old Lone Pine Hotel was being abandoned and was to be torn down, it set about to renovate it. The building's owner, the Department of Water and Power, agreed to a long-term lease. Since that time, private donations, fund-raising activities, and CETA workers have brought about this transformation. Old rooms will be leased as shops.



NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

to an "escape" channel providing movies and sports and old-but-good sitcoms "for a lot of people who just don't want to watch the six o'clock news." Meanwhile, the Independence TV cable man, Ted Higle, was trying to squelch rumors that his customers pay "different" rates; he said that he has increased "everyone's" rate to \$10 - this in answer to letters he has received complaining that a few customers pay only \$8. "Just not true," says Higle.

NOW IT'S BEEN MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR: Over the next few years there will "definitely" be cutbacks in the county's work force. A few department heads registered some confusion about a supervisorial enactment of a "hiring freeze" with many believing it had past its time; not so, say the supervisors. They agreed recently that if staff vacancies occur, the positions will be "reviewed" and a decision made as to

whether it will be filled. Some jobs will go in that way "by attrition." Supervisor Chairman Richard McDonald spoke this week of what may amount to a 25% cut in personnel over the next five years. "I'd rather have it by attrition have lay-offs," he said as the supervisors once again pondered the realities of Proposition 13.

THE INYO SHERIFF'S POSSE SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT may soon be out of a home if the supervisors move ahead with a tentative plan to sell the old Bishop jail property. That's where the rescue volunteers have been storing their equipment since the county abandoned the place for new quarters leased from the City of Bishop. A new appraisal value on the old property runs to about \$80,000. The supervisors may also sell other of its holdings: A tract of land in the Pine Creek area may go up for sale. An exchange is proposed for Bristlecone land in a

(Continued on back page.)

complex arrangement involving the Forest Service and the Department of Water and Power. The land the county wants lies near valley communities. As the proposal now stands, the county would have the Forest Service trade some land it owns in an exchange with the DWP which has land that the county wants and would later acquire from the Forest Service. An alternative - and far less involved - plan would be a direct trade between DWP and the county, but at present tensions between the two entities prevent much co-operative interchange at any level.

REMEMBER:

Hungry kids everywhere.
Help feed them.

CARE INC.

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NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

Vignette: ——— Ebony and friend ———



Standoff

Taunted and teased by a pet raven, a neighborhood dog at Independence stalks his quarry "Ebony" is the pet raven of the Jim Randolph family. The bird flies free in the neighborhood near the courthouse, and, like many ravens and blackbirds, likes to tease animals. "Ebony" knows just how far to go in luring this dog into pursuit. The pictures tell what happened then - and "Ebony" never lost the walnut he (or she) was carrying.



"Ebony" taunts...



...prepares to fly...



...lands on rooftop.



Disgusted, dog departs

eastern sierra news service

INYO COUNTY

INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA

JOHN HESTON • BENETT KESSLER
878-2381 & 878-2582

NEWS-LETTER

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